Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W $\,$

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R 202027Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2538
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
SECDEF

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MASS, DA, FR

SUBJECT: F104 REPLACEMENT: DEFMIN BRONDUM'S COMMENTS

REF: COPENHAGEN 2634

- 1. WE NOTE FROM REPORT IN REFTEL THAT DANISH DEFMIN BRONDUM STRESSED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS AND EFFICIENCIES IN DANISH CHOICE OF F-104 REPLACEMENT, AND HE COMMENTED THAT DIFFICULTIES IN THIS AREA ARE COMPOUNDED IN THE CASE OF YF-16 AND YF-17 "WHICH HAVE NOT YET ESTABLISHED ANY EXPERIENCE IN THESE FIELDS."
- 2. AS A MATTER OF FACT, OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE FRENCH COMPETITOR (F-1/M-53) HAS EVEN LESS EXPERIENCE THANTHE YF-16 AND THE YF-17, SINCE THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT HAS NCT YET FLOWN. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE FRENCH DO HAVE AN OPERATIONAL SQUADRON OF F-1 AIRCRAFT, THOSE AIRLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRAFT ARE EQUIPPED WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ENGINE

(THE ATAR 9K50). MOREOVER, MODIFICATION OF THE BASIC F-1 AIRFRAME TO INCLUDE THE MORE POWERFUL M-53 ENGINE HAS REQUIRED EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO THE FUSELAGE INTAKE DUCTING, ENGINE MOUNTING, AND AFT END OF THE F-1 FUSELAGE. THUS, IN AREAS MOST VITALLY AFFECTING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, THE RECONFIGURED F-1, CARRYING A NEW ENGINE IS A NEW AND UNTESTED AIRPLANE. IT SIMPLY IS NOT ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH COMPETITOR IS A FIELD-TESTED AIRCRAFT WHILE THE US CONTENDERS ARE STILL PROTOTYPES.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSY COPENHAGEN TO CORRECT BRONDUM'S APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING' AND SUGGEST THAT OTHER POSTS BE READY TO COUNTER SIMILAR ARGUMENTS SHOULD THEY ARISE. IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, POLICIES, JET AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS22370

Document Number: 1974PARIS22370 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740265-0873

From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740927/aaaaawyr.tel Line Count: 77

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: COPENHAGEN 2634 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10 APR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: F104 REPLACEMENT: DEFMIN BRONDUM'S COMMENTS

TAGS: MASS, DA, FR

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005